

EMS Profile: Windcrest Volunteer Fire Department

About us: Windcrest Volunteer Fire Department (WVFD) celebrated 40 years of service this year and is the fourth busiest department in the Bexar County/San Antonio area. We proudly serve the City of Windcrest and a portion of unincorporated Bexar County, a total population of approximately 12,000 people. We responded to more than 1900 calls last year; our call volume increases approximately 10 percent each year.

Personnel and Equipment:

WVFD has 35 volunteers, including one licensed paramedic, fourteen EMT-Basics and six ECAs. The rest of the firefighters are working toward obtaining their EMS certification. Our response fleet includes three first responder rescue vehicles, two engines, a 100-foot aerial ladder, one brush truck and one utility/back-up rescue. WVFD enjoys the support of our city, which provides the best equipment and training possible. Examples of our state-of-the-art equipment include three Philips MRx AED monitors with integrated non-invasive blood pressure, heart monitoring, hands-free pacing, pulse oximetry and capnography capabilities. Windcrest is the only BLS program in Bexar County that has been approved by the medical director to offer advanced elements, including 3- and 12-lead interventions, and advanced airway placement of combitubes. In addition, the department provides extensive training to ensure that every medic is able to properly identify and assess situations from minor injuries through cardiac arrests and major traumas.

Current activities: The City of Windcrest and the Windcrest Volunteer Fire Association operate a Live-In program for our volunteers, which



Texas Department of State Health Services
Office of EMS Trauma/Systems MC 1876
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Pictured are some members of WVFD displaying the 2010 EMS First Responder Award: Back row, left to right: Chief Dan Reese, Lt Erick Vargas, Tim Perez, Lt Gina Marsh, Mike Arnold, Mark Hallowell, Derek Santos, Jose Perez, John Moseley, Lt Aaron Ward, Capt Daniel Andrade, Capt Joe Moran. Front row, kneeling left to right: Justin Zeledon, Tim Villanueva, Robert Anderson and David Richards. Photo: Amanda Andrade.

consists of two single-family homes adjacent to the fire station. The dorm residents work and/or go to school full time and live for free in exchange for providing four six-hour shifts per week. We also provide a room called the "Doghouse" for non-dorm residents to sleep overnight to respond to calls while on duty. If a member of the department lives within our response area, he or she can take home a rescue vehicle in order to respond to calls from home. Windcrest has received a federal grant that provides salary reimbursement for time taken

off work to attend training and another grant that funds full health insurance for up to eight members of the department for four years. Windcrest was awarded the 2010 EMS First Responder of the Year Award at this year's Texas EMS Conference. This award is one more acknowledgement of our commitment and dedication to excellence, proving our motto, "Professional Volunteers... Setting the Standard".

For more information about our department, check our website at www.windcrestfire.org.